

45005. CRANIOULARIA ANNUA L. Martyniaceæ.

From Kew, England. Presented by Sir David Prain, director, Royal Botanic Gardens. Received July 23, 1917.

A coarse, wide-spreading, rank annual, about 2 feet high, with large, opposite, palmately lobed leaves with dentate margins, racemes of white flowers, and a two-valved many-seeded capsule with a long incurved beak. It is a native of northern South America, where it is known as *Creole scorzonera* and where the thick, fleshy root is preserved in sugar as a comfit. (Adapted from *Bailey, Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, vol. 2, p. 877.)

45006 to 45008.

From Nice, France. Presented by Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky. Received July 23, 1917.

45006. FOENICULUM VULGARE Hill. Apiaceæ.**Fennel.**

Fenouil doux. The sweet fennel is quite popular as a winter and spring vegetable in southern Europe. The young shoots are eaten like asparagus tips, either plain boiled or served with a sauce. The plant will grow on very stony, steep slopes, where it serves as a soil binder, but it responds readily to better treatment. (Adapted from *letter of Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky dated June 30, 1917.*)

45007. MUSA PARADISIACA SEMINIFERA (Lour.) Baker. Musaceæ.**Plantain.**

A wild seed-bearing form of the plantain, having small, oblong, greenish fruits full of seed. These fruits are about a third of the size of the common banana and are of pleasant taste, although encumbered by numerous seeds. The plant is quite ornamental and hardier than the common banana, so that it might be possible, by selection or hybridization, to extend the range of banana culture. (Adapted from *letter of Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky dated June 30, 1917.*)

45008. PRIOTROPIS CYTISOIDES (Roxb.) Wight and Arn. Fabaceæ.

A leguminous bush with slender branches, trifoliate leaves 2 to 3 inches long, and numerous many-flowered racemes of pale-yellow flowers. It is a native of the tropical region of the eastern Himalayas and is cultivated in Nice, France, where from November to April the abundant nectariferous flowers furnish about the only food available to the bees. Its winter-blooming habit and attractive flowers make it a desirable ornamental for regions not subject to severe frost. (Adapted from *Hooker, Flora of British India*, vol. 2, p. 65, and from *letter of Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky dated June 30, 1917.*)

45009. BUTIA CAPITATA (Mart.) Becc. Phœnicaceæ.**Palm.**

From Gotha, Fla. Fruits presented by Mr. H. Nehrling. Received July 23, 1917.

"This is the most massive of hardy *Cocos* species which I have. The bunches of fruits usually weigh about 50 pounds each. I raised the plant from seeds received from the late Dr. Hermann Burmeister, of Buenos Aires, who informed me that the seeds had been collected by Dr. Niederlein at Entre Rios, Argentina, about 22 years ago. These *Cocos* species are the most beautiful and hardy on the high pinelands, and most of them are edible and very aromatic." (*Nehrling.*)